grievance redressal by the Department of Telecommunications, concession in fare is provided by the Railways and Civil Aviation Ministries, tax concessions are provided by the Ministry of Finance, specific insurance schemes have been designed by Life Insurance Corporation, New India Assurance etc. Some public sector banks also allow higher interest on deposit by the elderly.

Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, old age pension is disbursed by States/UTs to Senior Citizens with no regular income.

Demands for funds by SBCFDC of Tripura

116. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds demanded by the State Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation of Tripura to the NBCFDC for awarding loans to the beneficiaries;

(b) whether the said Corporation will get Rs. 2.20 crore (approx.) as the Central share of loans as early as possible on the basis of proposals put forward by the corporation; and

(c) the action taken by Government to expedite the release of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Tripura OBC Cooperative Development Corporation Ltd., the State Channelising Agency (SCA) nominated by the Government of Tripura requested by simple letter for release of funds of Rs. 221.92 lakhs. The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) has informed the SCA that Rs. 3.96 crore has been allocated for the current financial year and demand for loan may be submitted on the prescribed format. Response from the State Channelising Agency is awaited.

Reservation for OBCs in services in Tripura

117. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any legal bar for any State to exceed certain high limit of percentage in respect of reservation;

(b) if so, the nature of restriction in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is no reservation in services for OBC people in Tripura as such a limit of percentage has already attained there; and

(d) the steps Government would like to take in order to introduce reservation for OBCs in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Supreme Court in its judgment delivered on 16-11-1992 in the case of Indira Sawhney and Others *Vs* Union of India and Others held that reservation under Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution should not exceed 50%.

(c) Yes Sir. There is no reservation for OBCs in the services under the State Government of Tripura.

(d) The Government of India has already fixed 27% reservation for OBCs in Civil Posts and Services under the Central Government for those Castes/communities which have been included in the Central List of OBCs for all the States including Tripura. However, the subject matter of reservation in State Services is the concern of respective State Governments.

Implementation of welfare schemes in Assam

118. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the different schemes formulated and implemented in the State of Assam during the last two years; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance allocated, released and utilized for the said purpose in the State during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Ministry formulates different welfare schemes for implementation throughout the country and not for a particular State. Also, no allocation is